

Message Text

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43

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-03 EPA-01 /021 W

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R 241145Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2308

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 2022

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ECON TPHY OSCI

SUBJECT: JOINT WORKING GROUP: COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES AND
FOLLOW-UP VISITS OF JWG (TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT)

1. DR. LARRY EICHER, NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS OFFICIAL, RECENTLY VISITED EGYPT AS PART OF FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORK OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUP ON TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. EICHER WAS WORKING WITH THE NATIONAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION CENTER (NIDOC) AND DISCUSSED COORDINATION BETWEEN CAIRO UNIVERSITY AND NIDOC IN DEVELOPING A TRAINING COURSE FOR INFORMATION SPECIALISTS. HE ALSO DISCUSSED PROJECT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PLANNING INFORMATION CENTER WHICH WOULD ATTEMPT TO COORDINATE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TO AVOID DUPLICATION AND TO MANAGE SCIENTIFIC RESOURCES BETTER AND APPLY THEM TO DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES. EICHER'S VISIT WAS USEFUL, BUT BELIEVE WE DID NOT RECEIVE FULL MILEAGE BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT WE WERE UNAWARE OF HIS PURPOSE PRIOR TO THIS ARRIVAL. IN FACT, THANKS ONLY TO HIS OWN INITIATIVE DID WE LEARN WHAT HE WAS DOING. IT ALSO WAS ONLY BY COINCIDENCE THAT HE SAW EGYPTIAN JWG CO-CHAIRMAN DR. HASSAN ISMAIL.

2. IN CONNECTION WITH ABOVE. EGYPTIAN JWG CO-CHAIRMAN HASSAN ISMAIL ASKED EMBOFF TO CALL FEB 20. ISMAIL COMPLAINED ABOUT EICHER VISIT SAYING THAT PRINCIPAL EGYPTIAN CONTACT WAS OUT OF TOWN BECAUSE NO ONE KNEW OF VISIT IN ADVANCE. ISMAIL APPEALED FOR ADVANCE INFORMATION, SAYING
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THAT HE IS PLEASED WITH PROGRESS OF FOLLOW-UP TO JWG EFFORT

BUT THAT VISITS SHOULD BE BETTER PREPARED AND COORDINATED.

3. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND DIFFICULTY OF COORDINATION AMONG WASHINGTON AGENCIES, WE BELIEVE THAT WE ARE WASTING EFFORTS BY NOT CHANNELING FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES THROUGH EMBASSY/EGYPTIAN JWG CHANNELS. SUGGEST AS POSSIBLE WAY TO FACILITATE COOPERATION THAT STATE DEPT BE FOCAL POINT FOR COORDINATION OF VISITS IN JWG (TR&D) FRAMEWORK SO THAT PROPER NOTIFICATION CAN BE GIVEN EMBASSY AND, THROUGH IT, EGYPTIAN JWG.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, RESEARCH, COMMITTEES, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO02022
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750064-0705
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750220/aaaaaarg.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <22 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOINT WORKING GROUP: COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES AND FOLLOW-UP VISITS OF JWG (TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH AND
TAGS: ECON, TPHY, OSCI, US, EG, USEGJC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006